Introduction of Cyclic time Tables on Suburban Railway System

2202. SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will introduce more cyclic time tables on the Suburban railway system in the metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) what steps are being taken to ease out peak hour traffic?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To ease the problems of commuters during peak hours, more trains were intorduced and train load augmented w.e.f. July' 95 Time Table.

Visit of French Premier to India

2203. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level French delegation headed by French Prime Minister visited India in mid-June, 1995;

(b) if so , the details of the agreements and memoranda of understanding signed during their visit;

(c) whether any understanding for curbing international terrorism was reached; and

(d) what steps have been taken and are being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Diversification of Rail lines on Suburban Railway

2204. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have addressed itself to the question of diversification of Railway lines on the suburban railway system to reduce overcrowding in trains and mitigate sufferings of commuters;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps are being taken to mitigate the sufferings of suburban commuters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) The subject of Urban Railway Transport has been transferred to the Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment under the Allocation of Business Rules. Coordination and Planning of the Transport infrastructures in Urban areas is to be done by Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment. Railways on its part has decided to introduce 10/12 car rake EMU trains, replacing the existing 9 car rakes to increase the carrying capacity of the EMU trains.

Development of Inland Water Transportation

2205. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the wake of environmental and economic considerations, the inland water transport sector has assumed importance; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to develop the inland water transportation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have declared three waterways viz. (i) the Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system from Haldia to Allahabad (1620 kms.) (ii) the Brahmaputra from Dhubri to Sadiya (891 kms.) and (iii) the West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 kms.) alongwith Champakara Canal (14 kms.) and Udyogmandal Canal (23 kms.) as National Waterways for their development for inland water transport. The Government have also set up the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in 1986, which is responsible for carrying out various development works like dredging, channel marking, etc. in the National Waterways for improving and maintaining its navigabiltiy. The IWAI has formulated a detailed policy/strategy for the development and expansion of inland water transport in the country. Under this policy it is planned to develop the National Waterways No. 1 to 3 by providing necessary infrastructural facilities like terminals, navigational aids, bank protection in narrow stretches etc.

Functioning of Railway routes From Roha to Mangalore under Konkan Railway

2206. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some railway route from Roha to Mangalore under Konkan Railway is ready to be opened to the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof with possible date for such introduction;

(c) whether this route will boost tourism and avenues of investment for some Southern States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following three sections have already been opened to Traffic:

Udupi — Mangalore
Udupi — Kundapura
Roha — Veer

In addition to the above three sections, Veer-Khed Section (52 kms.) is expected to be opened by the end of August' 95, and the entire Konkan Railway is targetted for opening by Dec' 95.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Entire Konkan Railway route passes through a most picturesque area having all along greenery, rivers and streams meeting the Creeks, with numerous Spurs extending from the main ridges to the Sea. In this area due to various incentives being given by the State Governments, Hotels, Motels, Water Sports, Golf Courses, Amusement Parks, Areal Rope-Way are likely to come up to boost the tourism. A number of Industries have also started planning for setting up their plants, factories etc.

Paramilitary Forces in the Country

2207. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are several paramilitary forces in the country;

(b) if so, give their names with total number of regular and ad-hoc personnels recruited in each force;

(c) whether huge amount has been spent on establishment and maintenance cost of these forces during 1992--93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(d) if so, the details thereof, force-wise separately during each of the last three years;

(e) whether some objectives are behind for having different paramilitary forces in the country; and

(f) whether there is any coordination amongst these forces?